

BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

THE CLOSING EXERCISES.

Address by County Superintendent Davis.

YOUNG LADIES: Having finished the prescribed course of study in the High School, passed the final examination and presented your essays, you are now entitled to your diplomas. Before you receive them however the Trustees wish me to express their satisfaction with the progress you have made under their care, to assure you of their best wishes for your success in life and to say a few parting words. It gives me great pleasure to do this, expressing also my own personal interest in your welfare.

During the reign of Cesar Augustus there was set up in the Roman Forum the celebrated *Milvianum Atrium*, or Golden Milestone, from which were reckoned distances to and from all parts of the empire. Traveling along any one of the substantial roads which extended into every province, the Roman knew his distance from the city which he had left, or which he was approaching. In those days "all roads lead to Rome." It is also true that they lead away from it.

There is in the life of every one of us a Golden Milestone from which we measure other points in our experience. You stand by the side of one of these to-night. Its brightness cheered you in your struggle to reach it, and you will always look back to it with peculiar pleasure. Whatever else you may forget, you will always remember that you graduated from the Bloomfield High School in 1887. The number on your diploma is 87.

Let us rest here for a few minutes, and consider the situation, before you resume your journey.

As one of your number has well said to-night, the name "Commencement" has been very appropriately given to these occasions because, although they close one part of your life, and so may be called "Closing Exercises," they are also the beginning—the commencement—of another, for which indeed the former has been the preparation. In your work hereafter you will need the same principles and habits that have been inculcated during your school life. They are of more value than the scholastic knowledge you have gained, for valuable as scholastic learning is, character is worth still more.

Character depends not on what men know, but on what they do. You will be almost, if not altogether, what you make yourselves to be.

For you have the power of choice. Say what we please about

"The destiny that shapes our ends, Rough-hew them how we will," we know that we can choose. He whose is the mighty, unseen force pervading all things, directs that force by unchangeable laws; and it is an important part of our work in life to find out those laws, and to obey them. Within these limits your destiny is in your own hands.

A recent writer has said: "It is undoubtedly true that we can even now literally choose between health and disease—not perhaps always individually, for the sins of our fathers may be visited upon us; or the customs of our lives, and the chains of our civilization, or social customs may gild us; or even our fellow men may deny us health, or the knowledge which leads to health. But even with these embarrassments, it is remarkable how far we can correct or improve those conditions, and how much we may profit individually by the knowledge and practice of the laws of our being."

This is said of bodily health; but it is just as true of mind and spirit. "We can literally choose between health" of mind and spirit, "and disease" of mind and spirit. But to exercise this choice rightly is not an easy thing. Many of us can say, "I know the right, and I approve it too; condemn the wrong, and yet never pursue."

A strong, resolute will, and constant watchfulness alone can secure the right choice.

It is not necessary to say anything to you about the common laws of health; for you have been taught them. You know what health demands as regards dress, food, air, sleep, exercise and other similar matters. Having this knowledge, you must exercise a choice; and that choice is between health and disease.

Were there young men among you I should caution them against the constantly besetting temptation to use narcotics and stimulants; especially against anything that intoxicates. But as they seem to have all dropped out by the way, I would say to you, Never by word or look imply that you will bear with or pardon, in the young men of your acquaintance, intemperance in any degree! Above all, when they have formed the habit, don't marry them to save them; you will only ruin yourselves. Their choice has already been made. They have chosen disease rather than health; death rather than life.

Perhaps nothing will affect your mental and spiritual health more than the books you read. Your field of choice here will be large; but if you wish to take the healthful, and reject the harmful, you can do it. Friends will recommend a book because it has pleased them; bookstores and stands entice on every side; publications and re-publications in all conceivable forms and colors flood the country. Unless you watch carefully you will be reading books destructive to purity of thought and imagination. And if you should escape this danger, you will fail to acquire a taste for what is good and beautiful and true in literature.

Make it a rule never, to read a book unless you can give a good reason for so doing.

A pamphlet entitled "The Best Hundred Books," originally published by the *Pull Mall Gazette*, and for sale everywhere is a capital work to be in with. It is not merely a list, but a discussion by several of the best writers and thinkers of the day, and will be a great help to any who wish to know what to read.

A list of "books for young girls to read" has just been issued by "The King's Daughters," an association of young women for practical benevolent work. Although only a year old this Society has spread through this country and England, and is doing a wonderful amount of good.

This list, like many other things prepared for boys and girls, is good for children of larger growth.

I cannot close better than by recommending it to your careful study, and by giving you their motto to add to your own:

"Look up and not down;
"Look out and not in;
"Look forward and not back;
"And lead a hand,
"In His Name."

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A Good Example.

The people of Arlington are beautifying their village by methods that may be profitably employed by other communities. The ladies of the town last year organized under the name of the "Arlington Park Association," for the outdoor improvement of their village. The Association has only begun its work, but if it equals in the coming year the good results of its first twelve months, the town will be a marvel of beauty and neatness. The first work of the Association was directed to the improvement of the neglected commons about the railroad station. A pretty little park was laid out at the station, and, under the direction of the landscape gardener of the Arlington Cemetery, was tastefully graded and planted with trees and shrubbery, and enclosed with a neat fence. Flower beds were planted about the station, the streets in the vicinity were thoroughly gravelled, and it has become one of the most attractive in its surroundings of all the stations on the Greenwood Lake Railroad. The influence of the Association is seen all through the town in improvements upon private grounds, which it has stimulated. Property-owners have recognized the value of this work and contributed to its treasury. The railroad company has freely supplied all the gravel needed for the street improvements, and the Cemetery Association, with its skilled labor and nursery of trees and shrubs, has given substantial aid. The Arlington people were favorably situated for such a work, but a similar organization in any community would be worth many times over, all it would cost in expense and time.—*Jersey City Journal*.

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Leave Glenridge—6:06, 7:17, 7:54, 8:30, 9:17, 10:37, 11:37, a.m., 12:43, 1:43, 2:30, 4:42, 5:27, 6:13, 6:57, 8:18, 9:43, 11:08 p.m., 12:31 a.m.

Leave Bloomfield—6:08, 7:19, 7:56, 8:32, 9:19, 10:39, 11:39, a.m., 12:45, 1:45, 2:32, 4:44, 5:29, 6:15, 6:59, 8:20, 9:45, 11:10, p.m., 12:33 a.m.

Leave Watertown—6:10, 7:21, 7:58, 9:21, 10:41, 11:41 a.m., 12:45, 1:45, 2:32, 4:44, 5:29, 6:15, 6:59, 8:20, 9:45, 11:10, p.m., 12:33 a.m.

Leave Barclay Street—6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 a.m., 12:40, 1:40, 2:40, 3:40, 4:40, 5:40, 6:40, 7:40, 8:40, 9:40, 10:40, 11:40 p.m.

Leave Newark for Bloomfield—6:40, 7:15, 7:53, 8:43, 10:03, 11:03, 11:33, a.m., 1:13, 1:53, 2:43, 4:13, 5:26, 6:04, 6:53, 7:49, 9:03, 10:38 p.m., 12:08 a.m.

*Saturdays only.

NOTE—Leave Christopher street 5 minutes later than time given above.

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